

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to meet this situation?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) Existing facilities for the training of Craftsmen are being expanded.

Cement

1432. Shri A. C. Guha: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cement handled by the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd., so far with break-up of imported and indigenous cement;

(b) the different items which have contributed to the fixation of price of cement by the Corporation; and

(c) the quantity of cement estimated to be imported and the loss to be incurred on that account?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The quantities of cement handled by the State Trading Corporation are as follows:—

(i) Imported cement, 2,36,700 tons (upto the 31st July, 1957).

(ii) Indigenous cement, 51,54,335 tons (upto the 30th June, 1957).

(b) The following items have been taken into account while fixing the price of the cement:—

(i) Price payable to the producers of indigenous cement

(ii) Excise duty

(iii) Packing charges.

(iv) Freight.

(v) Loss on imported cement.

(vi) Contingencies etc

(c) A total quantity of about 7 lakh tons of cement is estimated to be imported upto the end of March, 1958, and the estimated cost to be incurred on this quantity is likely to amount to Rs. 3.5 crores.

Handlooms and Powerlooms

1433. Shri A. C. Guha: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state the number of handlooms and powerlooms in the production centres?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

Thrift-Fund for Handloom Weavers

1434. Shri M. V. Krishna Rao: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have recommended a scheme for the introduction of a thrift-fund for the benefit of Weavers in the Weavers' Co-operatives in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The object of the scheme was to promote thrift in weavers' co-operative societies and to create an incentive among weavers to contribute to thrift deposits. The proposal envisaged among other things the credit to the accounts of the members, a sum equivalent to their thrift collection on more or less the same lines as provident fund contributions to workers in industrial concerns. The scheme involved a grant for Rs. 4 lakhs in the year 1957-58.

(c) The scheme was returned to the State Government as the general principles of subsidising such thrift funds had not been accepted by the Government of India.

Handloom Weavers Congress, Nidubrolu (Andhra)

1435. Shri M. V. Krishna Rao: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay on the Table a copy of the memorandum dated the 21st January, 1957 submitted by the Andhra State Handloom Weavers Congress, Nidubrolu and state:

(a) the action taken thereon;

(b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have forwarded their reactions in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). No such memorandum has been received by the Government of India.

Unemployment in Andhra Pradesh

1436. Shri M. V. Krishna Rao: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the amount given to Andhra Pradesh to relieve unemployment, the details of the schemes which were prepared by the State and the success achieved in relieving unemployment during the First Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 24]

Government Advertisements

1437. Shri Kumaran: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the names of newspapers and periodicals in Kerala which receive Central Government advertisements; and

(b) the amount paid to each of such newspapers and periodicals on that account during the year ending the 31st March, 1957?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). Advertisements are given to the newspapers and periodicals according to the requirements of each release and no list is maintained. It is also not desirable in public interest to publish such a list as it might lead to recrimination amongst papers. The total amount paid to newspapers in Kerala on account of advertisement charges during the year ending 31st March, 1957 is Rs. 35,007.

Industrial Development of Assam

1438. Shri Bhagavati: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry

be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1942 on the 12th September, 1956 and state:

(a) whether any of the industries proposed under the Second Five Year Plan have already been set up in Assam and if so, what is the progress;

(b) what financial aid has been asked for by the State Government for these industries;

(c) what amount has been sanctioned by Government as loans and grants;

(d) whether the Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill has asked for financial help either as loan or grant from the Government of India; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (e). The Second Five Year Plan of Assam State provides for an amount of Rs. 133 lakhs for the establishment of a Textile Mill, a Jute Mill, a Spun Silk Mill and a Sugar Mill. The progress made in the establishment of these undertakings and details of the financial assistance afforded for their establishment are indicated below:

(1) *Textile Mill*—The undertaking has been licensed under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for the establishment of 25,000 spindles. The State Government propose to subscribe 40 per cent. of the total capital structure of the Company.

(2) *Spun Silk Mill*—The Assam State Government have issued administrative approval and financial sanction for Rs 12,80,000 for the construction of the factory and other buildings for the establishment of Spun Silk Mill in the State. Land is being acquired for the purpose. Order for the machinery available from indigenous sources has been placed and the possibility of procurement of other machi-